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Wednesday, June 18, 2008

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Amber Alert Issued For Lansing-Area Girl, 11

POSTED: 6:33 pm EDT June 17, 2008
UPDATED: 6:45 pm EDT June 17, 2008

LANSING, Mich. -- An Amber Alert has been issued Tuesday for an 11-year-old Lansing-area girl.

Police said they believe Diana Rose Windowmaker is in "extreme danger."

She was last seen leaving the 700 block of West Maple Street in Lansing Tuesday morning. Police said she was abducted by a man traveling on foot.

Windowmaker is described as 5 feet 1 inch tall, weighing 90 pounds and has brown eyes and brown hair. Her family said she has a noticeable burn scar above her right eye.

She was last seen wearing a pink jacket, a blue jean skirt and black stretch pants.

The Lansing Police Department said the child's alleged abductor is a 40-year-old man and 6 feet tall.

He was last seen running away, wearing a black T-shirt, blue jeans and a black do-rag under a ball cap.

Anyone with information on the victim or alleged abductor is asked to call 911 or the Lansing Police Department at 517-483-4600.

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June 18, 2008

Lansing police continue search for missing 11-year-old girl

Morning update

Lansing State Journal

Police are continuing the search for an 11-year-old girl who went missing Tuesday afternoon.

Lansing police issued an Amber Alert on Tuesday for Dianna Rose Windowmaker, who was last seen at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of West Maple Street in the company of a man who looked to be about 40.

Lansing police spokesman Lt. Noel Garcia said police don't believe the man took Windowmaker by force, but added that when a young girl "leaves with a person that age, even willingly, there's some kind of coercion that could be there."

Windowmaker is black and has black shoulder-length hair worn in braids and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a pink jacket and blue jean skirt. The man was wearing a black T-shirt, blue jeans and a black do-rag under a black ball cap. Anyone with information should call Lansing police at 483-4600.



June 18, 2008

Lansing police continue search for missing 11-year-old girl

Morning update

Ryan Loew
Lansing State Journal

UPDATED 10:22 A.M. - Police are continuing the search for an 11-year-old girl who went missing Tuesday afternoon.

Lansing police issued an Amber Alert on Tuesday for Dianna Rose Windowmaker, who was last seen at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of West Maple Street in the company of a man who looked to be about 40.

Lansing police spokesman Lt. Noel Garcia said police don't believe the man took Windowmaker by force, but added that when a young girl "leaves with a person that age, even willingly, there's some kind of coercion that could be there."

Windowmaker's family is expected to make a plea for the girl's safe return at a media conference at 11 a.m. today, Garcia said.

Windowmaker went missing near the Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy. Mark Eitrem, superintendent of the school said she is not and has not ever been a student there.

"I'm disappointed and concerned obviously that this young lady is missing," he said. "A parent has that constant fear that their child is going to be missing."

Eitrem said a staff member saw the girl at about 1:30 p.m. with two younger boys. They knocked on the main entrance of the school and Windowmaker asked to use the bathroom, he said. They were not allowed to enter because maintenance was being done on the hallway, he said. The children left.

Eitrem said police were on scene at their three-building campus Tuesday. He said police interrupted a board meeting at about 6 p.m. to ask if there were student activities on campus. Eitrem said there weren't because school is closed for summer.

Tom Carmoney, an office assistant at the North Neighborhood Center near the school, said he was at the center around the time the girl went missing. He said he never saw her and people were going about their activities in the neighborhood as normal. The area is a mix of residential homes and some vacant buildings.

"It kind of surprised me that someone would come up missing around here because of organizations working around here such as the school," he said.

Linda Pothoff, 56, who lives nearby on Brook Street, said she knows the girl.

"She had a very beautiful personality," she said.

"I'm hoping very much that we find her."

Pothoff said she would see Windowmaker around the neighborhood talking with friends. She last saw her on Monday, Pothoff said.

Kathy Rogers, who lives on Pine Street, is the coordinator of the Neighborhood Watch 127 and vice present of the Old Forest Neighborhood Association.

She said she did not know the girl but is concerned about neighborhood safety.

"I've got a granddaughter who is 13, and it really makes you wonder if it's safe," she said.

Her granddaughter does not live in Lansing but visits frequently in the summer.

"I have concerns, you know. I want my granddaughter safe," she said.

Rogers' Neighborhood Watch has a meeting tonight and will likely discuss the girl's disappearance, she said.

Windowmaker is black and has black shoulder-length hair worn in braids and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a pink jacket and blue jean skirt. The man was wearing a black T-shirt, blue jeans and a black do-rag under a black ball cap. Anyone with information should call Lansing police at 483-4600.

Check www.lsj.com for updates.

Contact Ryan Loew at 377-1206 or rloew@lsj.com.

Missing Lansing girl found unhurt

LANSING STATE JOURNAL • June 18, 2008

Updated at 12:30 p.m.

Lansing police say they have found 10-year-old Diana Rose Windowmaker. She appears uninjured.

Details were not immediately available on where she was located or the circumstances of her abduction.

Police issued an Amber Alert on Tuesday for the girl who was originally reported as 11 years old.

Valerie Windowmaker, the girl's mother said earlier in a news conference, "If anybody has seen Diana please help her. Please call police."

She made a plea to her daughter: "I love you and I want you home."

Diana was last seen at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of West Maple Street near Comstock Park in the company of a man who looked to be about 40. She was last seen by a younger sibling.

Lansing police spokesman Lt. Noel Garcia said police don't believe the man took Diana by force, but added that when a young girl "leaves with a person that age, even willingly, there's some kind of coercion that could be there."

Garcia said police received tips from the public.

Garcia said the family does not live near where she was abducted. The family stays in an assisted living center in Lansing.

Diana went missing near the Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy. Mark Eitrem, superintendent of the school, said she has never been a student there.

Eitrem said a staff member saw the girl at about 1:30 p.m. with two younger boys. They knocked on the main entrance of the school and Diana asked to use the bathroom, he said. They were not allowed to enter because maintenance was being done on the hallway, he said. The children left.

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Her granddaughter does not live in Lansing but visits frequently in the summer.

"I have concerns, you know. I want my granddaughter safe," she said.

Rogers' Neighborhood Watch has a meeting tonight and will likely discuss the incident, she said.



Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Detroit

Former teacher guilty of having sex with boy

Doug Guthrie / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- A former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher was taken into immediate custody Tuesday by Wayne County Sheriff's deputies after being found guilty of having a sexual affair with a 15-year-old former student.

Wayne Circuit Court jurors deliberated an hour and a half before deciding Stephanie Stein, 32, had sex twice last summer with the boy, who had been in her eighth-grade English class the previous school year.

Stein was convicted on two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, sending sexually explicit photographs to a minor and using a cell phone to send those images.

The mother of two young children faces up to 15 years in prison when she is sentenced on July 2.

"It's her worst nightmare," said her attorney, Todd Flood. "She's a mess. This is a tragic loss."

During the four-day trial, Flood attempted to paint the victim, now 16, as the perpetrator who led Stein into the relationship.

The boy testified that he at first tried to take the blame by telling authorities he manipulated Stein.

But he later became angry because the parents of friends ordered their children to stop talking to him when word of what happened leaked out in the community.

In her closing argument to the jury Tuesday, Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden pointed out that Stein was trained as a teacher about the perils of student infatuation, yet had sex with the boy twice -- in June and July 2007.

"She came back for more," Weingarden told the jurors.

Instant messages and e-mails between the victim and Stein showed early on that the young man wanted a long-term relationship with her and to save her from what he thought was an abusive marriage.

He also testified that he fantasized about having children with her. In later messages, the teen said he hated Stein and vowed that she was going to jail.

Judge Craig Strong barred the media from identifying or taking photographs of the teenage victim.

After the verdict, the teen declined to talk about the relationship except to say, "I'm just glad that it's over."

The relationship began with a kiss and a hug after class, according to the boy's testimony. He said he pursued her and although she told him, "it would be weird," he testified that "she never said no."

Stein is being held at the Wayne County Jail. Her two young children, a boy and a girl, are being cared for by her parents and her husband, who is divorcing her, according to Flood.

Find this article at:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080618/METRO01/806180355>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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Sisters' case has long history in the courts

Posted by Kristin Longley | The Flint Journal June 14, 2008 14:30PM

GENESEE TOWNSHIP, Michigan -- The state Department of Human Services intervened in the Wolf family's case about the time parents Larry and Belinda Wolf left the Genesee Township friary in 2005, court records show.

Larry Wolf declined to speak to The Journal in detail about the dispute, but said the Wolfs "don't agree on certain behaviors" they witnessed at the monastery. He also said the friary evicted them.

"We had a dispute," he said.

Suddenly, the eight Wolf siblings, who had apparently spent their entire lives on the fringes of society, were plunged headlong into Genesee County Probate Court.

Court records say videotaped statements from the five oldest children -- the four sisters and their brother, Bernard, now 22 -- show "all the children had difficulties speaking, were isolated from everyone and were unable to functionally read or write."

The Wolf children told authorities in videotaped interviews that their parents would not educate them, take them to doctors or give them medications because the parents considered the practices evil.

Armed with a court order, DHS placed the four youngest children -- Faustyna, Moses, Judith and Elias Wolf -- in foster care while the parents underwent evaluations and took parenting classes, records show.

The eldest children, Veronica, Mary and Rita, chose to stay at the monastery. Bernard Wolf went to live and work with a family in Shiawassee County.

Eventually, DHS determined the parents were not a threat, records show.

"They were victims of economic circumstances," said the parents' attorney, Arthur Busch. "These people worked out whatever problems they had.

"It was concluded and their children were returned to them."

Larry Wolf said the friars started the saga that led to the family's split.

"Something's not right," he said of the friary. "We had a bad experience."

Moses, Judith and Elias were released to their parents' care in February 2007, records show. Faustyna Wolf remained in foster care until she turned 18, when she returned to the monastery where the four sisters have lived ever since.

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Kent County Commissioner James Vaughn charged with domestic assault

Posted by [mholland](#) June 17, 2008 14:09PM



Press Photo/Emily Zoladz Grand Rapids Police

Detective Pete Kemme gathers evidence from the home of Kent County Commissioner James Vaughn Tuesday afternoon in East Grand Rapids. Vaughn was arrested earlier that morning for domestic abuse charges.



Press Photo/Emily ZoladzA Grand Rapids Police cruiser sits in front of the home of Kent County Commissioner James Vaughn on Tuesday morning.

GRAND RAPIDS -- A Kent County Commissioner arrested Tuesday for an alleged domestic assault was later released from jail pending further investigation by police.

James Vaughn, who has represented Southeast Grand Rapids in the county's 17th District since 2000, is accused of attacking a girlfriend, 46-year-old Ida Cross, inside his 1288 Cambridge Drive house about 1 a.m., police and the victim's family said.

Vaughn, 65, has not been formally charged with a crime but was booked at the Kent County Jail on a misdemeanor domestic assault offense, jail officials said. He was released about six hours after he was brought into the lockup, authorities said.

Jarvis Beene, a brother of Cross, said his sister is recovering from a "busted eye" as well as cuts on her arms and an injury to one of her ears. She was treated at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital and may have to undergo surgery, Beene said.

Family members said after a fight inside Vaughn's home, he later drove her to her residence. Once there, the woman's

son noticed the injuries and called one of the victim's sisters, who took her to the hospital.

Vaughn did not answer the door at his house and did not return calls for comment. He told investigators he was breaking up an argument between Cross and another person inside the house.

The woman's injuries were reported to police by hospital personnel, who told her they had to inform authorities after hearing of the alleged assault, said one of Cross's sisters.

Cross told hospital employees that she did not want to press charges, her sister said.

Police interviewed Cross at the hospital, and further investigation is expected. Police searched the home and left with four or five bags of evidence.

Vaughn and Cross have been seeing each other about four years, relatives said.

Neighbors said they have never heard this kind of trouble at the house. One resident said, "As far as neighbors go, he is a really nice man."

Several commissioners declined to comment on the allegations, saying they were not aware of the facts of the investigation.

Harold Voorhees, a Republican who represents the Wyoming area as the 9th District representative, said he feels sorry for Vaughn's family. Vaughn recently had a brother die after a battle with cancer and the funeral was held Tuesday. It is unclear if Vaughn was able to attend.

"They've got to be grieving, and what happened, I don't know," Voorhees said. "My prayers and concern are with him and the woman."



James Vaughn's jail mug shot

Brandon Dillon, a Democrat who fills the District 18 slot for Northeast Grand Rapids, said the allegations seem out of character compared to the side of Vaughn he has seen.

"It's obviously a very serious situation," Dillon said. "We have to put our faith in law enforcement that they will conduct a thorough and fair investigation."

It does not appear the allegation would threaten Vaughn's status as a commissioner. He can only be removed from office because of neglect or confinement in a state prison.

The misdemeanor offense is punishable by 93 days in a county jail and a fine, if Vaughn were charged and convicted.

Vaughn, a Democrat, returned to the board after a 12-year absence, having previously served as 17th District

representative from 1982 to 1988.

He is unopposed in the August primary and likely would face Republican Brian Kroll in the November election. Vaughn beat Kroll in 2006 with 6,664 votes to 2,313.

Vaughn works in the job training department at Grand Rapids Community College and is a former Grand Rapids city employee.

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TROY

Family to get \$100 million in death suit

Settlement is the largest of its kind

BY AMBER HUNT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 18, 2008

A Troy family was awarded \$100 million in a wrongful death suit -- the largest settlement known for a wrongful death case in Michigan -- stemming from the 2005 murder of 20-year-old Leila Kristine Armin.

Armin was beaten with a baseball bat and stabbed to death in her parents' home by her boyfriend. Her body then was put in a trash bag and into a garbage can in her family's garage, where it was discovered by police and her parents, said James Elliott, who represented Armin's parents, Ali and Nahid Armin, in the suit.

Macomb County Circuit Judge David Viviano entered the settlement Monday -- the third anniversary of Armin's death.

Amir Aziz Shahideh was convicted of the murder in December 2006 and sentenced to life in prison. He was a 20-year-old college student living with his parents in West Bloomfield at the time of the attack, authorities said.

The suit was filed against Shahideh and largely is a symbolic win for Amir's family, who will have claim over any money he earns while working in prison, as well as any funds he had previously accumulated.

Elliott, in a Tuesday news release, said that Leila Armin and Shahideh had known each other for years and their families were longtime friends.

The two began dating, but Armin tried to end it, Elliott said, and Shahideh killed her.

Contact **AMBER HUNT** at alhunt@freepress.com or at 586-826-7260. Staff writer Steve Neavling contributed to this report.



June 18, 2008

Leslie teen receives 300 days in jail for beating girl

Midday update

Susan Vela
Lansing State Journal

Jarod Anthony Marshall, 16, who beat a 14-year-old Leslie girl until she was unconscious was sentenced this morning to 300 days in Ingham County Jail and four years of probation.

He was sentenced in Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield's court.

Marshall pleaded guilty to attacking fellow freshman Mary Pulliam on Jan. 8 as she walked along a path between Leslie Middle School and the high school. Pulliam suffered facial and skull fractures. They did not know each other.

Pulliam, who has struggled with memory loss and balance problems since the attack, didn't know how to respond afterward.

"I've been really messed up about this," she said after the sentencing. "He was right there. He was the guy that almost killed me. He was right there."

Marshall, 16, did not speak during the sentencing. He has served approximately 130 days in jail and wore a jail jumper and slippers as Pulliam spoke from the prosecutor's table.

Court-appointed attorney Joseph Brehler said his client is sorry for his actions.

"He recognizes... the seriousness of what he did," he said.

Read more on this report in Thursday's Lansing State Journal.

Contact Susan Vela at 702-4248 or svela@lsj.com.

Granholt: State can do more to cut commuting costs

ASSOCIATED PRESS • June 18, 2008

LANSING — Michigan's governor wants to determine if more state workers could use four-day work weeks and other options to save money in the era of \$4-per-gallon gasoline.

More than a third of state workers already participate in some sort of alternative work schedule. About 8% of those workers have a compressed work week of up to 12 hours per day.

Jennifer Granholm says in a letter this week to state employees the state can do more to provide flexibility and cut commuting costs.

A Granholm spokesman said today that options will be considered that won't hurt state services and in some cases could improve them.

Last week, Oakland County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved county Executive L. Brooks Patterson's plan to allow certain employees to volunteer for 10-hour days and three-day weekends.

Patterson proposed the idea last month as a way to help employees save money on commuting costs as gas prices climb. Patterson said he hopes 1,000 to 1,500 of the county's 4,000 employees sign up for the plan.

Sheriff's deputies and others in jobs that must be staffed around the clock aren't eligible. Patterson said some services offered by the county would be extended as workers stay later into the evening as part of a 10-hour workday.